FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Political Situation — The National Salvation Front is preparing a working paper for the National Dialogue Conference and the Phalange Party soon will consult with its allies to formulate a unified stand for the conference, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri discussed issues related to the conference in separate meetings with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, the radio noted.

In another development, a Libyan official statement broadcast by Tripoli radio announced Libya's intention to resume political relations with Lebanon "now that the causes that led to freezing them have been removed after the tearing up and burning of the document of submission." The statement praised President al-Jumayyil's "courage, wisdom, and patriotism."

Security Situation — The security situation "collapsed" on 7 March as fighting resumed between the Lebanese Army and its opponents in and around Beirut, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. While the radio blamed the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its allies for the renewed clashes, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain Radio held the Christian side responsible. Meanwhile, U.S. journalist Jeremy Levin disappeared in Beirut "under mysterious circumstances," according to Beirut radio. Citing "security reports," Voice of Lebanon radio said Levin was kidnapped by PSP gunmen who entered the Commodore Hotel in West Beirut.

Syria

The Ba'th Party Regional Command in Damascus has decided to appoint Rif'at al-Asad, Zuhayr Mashariqah, and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam as vice presidents, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. Rif'at al-Asad will be responsible for military and national security affairs, Mashariqah will be concerned with internal and party affairs, and Khaddam will deal with political affairs, according to the radio. Reporting on the "divergences among the Ba'thist authorities" and the "succession" issue and saying that President Hafiz al-Asad is still "overworking himself," Radio Free Lebanon said Foreign Minister Khaddam is aligned with Army Chief of Staff Hikmat ash-Shihabi against Rif'at al-Asad, the president's brother. As for the expected cabinet changes, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service speculated that the president may replace Defense Minister Mustafa Talas with Rif'at al-Asad, thereby consolidating the power of the 'Alawite sect.

Meanwhile, in an *AL-BA'TH* interview reported by SANA, Defense Minister Talas affirmed that Syria has made progress in achieving a strategic balance with the "Zionist enemy" in order to face all challenges.

Israel

A spokesman for Abu Nidal's "terrorist organization" based in Damascus claimed responsibility for the 7 March bomb explosion aboard a bus in Ashdod, Jerusalem radio announced. According to a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio account of the incident, a "group of our revolutionaries" carried out a "daring operation" against an Israeli "military bus." Damascus radio attributed the attack to "Palestinian resistance men" operating in the occupied territories.

PLO Affairs

A routine meeting of the Fatah Central Committee began on 6 March in Tunis in the presence of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, QNA reported. According to an "informed Palestinian source," the committee members heard a report from 'Arafat on his recent talks with Jordan's King Husayn and discussed future "political moves" including the possibility of another visit to Jordan by 'Arafat to meet with the PRC President Li Xiannian, QNA added.

Jordan

A Jordanian-Palestinian move is possible in the "very near future" although Jordan and the PLO thus far have not discussed any particular plan, King Husayn revealed in an interview broadcast by Amman television. The recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks were aimed at organizing bilateral relations and defining the "ideal image of these relations in the future after liberating the land," he said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq has proposed the convening of an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad on 13 March to discuss the current "serious situation" which endangers the entire Arab region, INA announced citing a letter sent by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. The letter said that Iran's aggression against Iraq had "very seriously escalated" in recent days by means of "successive offensives" in an attempt to penetrate Iraq's borders and occupy its territory. 'Aziz warned that this aggression is merely a "prelude" to imposing Iranian control over other parts of the Arab region as well.

Meanwhile, Iranian forces "severely crushed" a second Iraqi counteroffensive launched on 7 March in the southern part of the Majnun Islands by eight brigades, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced. More than 700 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the attack and a large amount of weaponry and equipment was destroyed, the communique added. Iranian forces are currently in "full control" of the

Majnun region. The city of Abadan again came under Iraqi artillery fire sustaining greater damage than during previous days, the Iranian Armed Forces Joint Staff communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 7 March reported. According to IRNA, Iraq has launched 130 "missile" attacks, 320 air raids, and over 1,500 artillery barrages against Iranian residential areas during the course of the war.

The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio on 7 March, reported the successful completion of 177 combat missions by its helicopter gunships, during which two Iranian helicopters were shot down and a third damaged. Iranian artillery continued to shell the residential areas of Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin, the communique added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers — The GCC foreign ministers will hold their 10th meeting in Riyadh on 10 March to discuss the political situation in the Arab and Gulf regions, particularly the Iran-Iraq war, the Lebanese crisis, relations between the two Yemens, and military cooperation among the GCC members, SPA reported citing a "responsible source" at the GCC General Secretariat.

Libyan-Egyptian Relations — Libya is "ready to open its border" with Egypt provided Egypt reciprocates in kind, AFP announced citing remarks by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Meanwhile, the People's Committee of the Foreign Liaison Bureau, in a statement reported by JANA, reiterated the conditions surrounding Egypt's return to the ICO. If the Egyptian Government continues its commitment to the Camp David accords, then the resolution suspending its ICO membership will remain valid, the statement stressed.

Nuclear Energy Agreements

The Iraqi atomic energy organization signed a contract on 7 March with a Soviet atomic energy establishment with the aim of choosing a site for a nuclear electric power station, INA announced.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian-Italian protocol on nuclear cooperation was signed in Cairo on 7 March by the two countries' foreign ministers, Cairo radio announced. According to the agreement, Italy will contribute 40 percent of the cost of building a nuclear power station in the Ad-Dab'ah area, the radio added.

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South Asia

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Afghan-Soviet Economic Protocol Signed in Kabul

LD071944 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] A protocol assessing the decisions and proposals of the third Afghan-Soviet standing commission on economic cooperation was concluded this afternoon after discussion and exchange of views at the State Planning Committee.

The protocol was signed by the deputy chairmen of the Afghan-Soviet standing commission on economic cooperation of the two countries and the relevant documents were exchanged. Sarwar Mangal, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, was present on the occasion.

Citing a source at the State Planning Committee, BAKHTAR reports that the two delegations made a comprehensive appraisal and study of mutual cooperation in transport construction and use, industry, electric energy, agriculture and irrigation, communications, health, training of national cadres and other activities.

It should be noted that during 1982-1984 some 16 assorted projects have been constructed and put into use with the assistance of the Soviet Union, which has an important role in the country's economy. The source said that total products during 1983-84 in Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects now reaches a value of 18 billion afghanis and the income from that exceeds 14 billion afghanis. At present some 70 percent of the DRA's state industries' production comes from Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects.

Giving attention to the growth of economic, technical, and trade relations between the two countries, the two sides studied a series of new subjects including the repair and reopening of highways and the supply of the equipment, construction tools, machinery and material needed, the supply of agricultural machine tools for agricultural activities, the reconstruction of Kabul Nandari [theater in Kabul], the building of eight nurseries, and others.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the conclusion of the document provides grounds for the further growth of Afghan-Soviet cooperation which plays an important role in the consolidation of the DRA's independence, the raising of the living standards of the country's toilers, and the creation of suitable conditions for the implementation of democratic and progressive social changes in the interest of the broad masses of the people.

During their talks, both sides stated that at present the Soviet Union's share in the DRA's foreign trade is about 60 percent. During 1983-84, the Soviet Union has given assorted goods and consumer materials to Afghanistan in the form of grants and long-term loans. It was agreed that the supply of such goods during 1984-85 will be continued.

Both sides noted with satisfaction that contacts between the delegations of foreign trade, cooperatives, and chambers of trade and industry will be further expanded.

Reportage on Recent Fighting in Kandahar

'Massive' Operations Cited

BK080052 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Soviet-Karmal forces are carrying out massive military operations to regain control of Kandahar city, according to reports. The mujahidin have also intensified their activities in Kandahar city since the 2d week of last month. They are seen roaming freely in the town's bazaars. There have also been severe clashes at Deh Khwaja in eastern Kandahar. The Soviet-Karmal forces were forced to confine themselves within the [word indistinct] and the military camps due to mujahidin activities. Following their confinement, the soldiers began conducting terrorist activities during the 3d week of last month.

Kandahar-Herat Highway Cut

GF072020 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1720 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Reports received here say that battles between our Muslim revolutionaries and the invading Soviet forces continue with unabated force. Our revolutionary and mujahid brothers every day have inflicted heavy blows on the invading force and its puppet regime.

On 28 February, Soviet forces sent about 100 tanks to the strategic Panjwin region. Our revolutionary Muslims several times have crushed the attacks by the Red Army and the Karmal regime, which are intended to occupy the Panjsher Valley. They have also killed and wounded thousands of them.

Similarly, in a fierce battle between our Muslim revolutionaries and the Soviet and Karmal forces close to Kandahar, a number of enemy soldiers, among whom were several members of the communist party ruling our land, were killed or captured. In this battle, a number of Soviet and Karmal forces fled.

Reports received from the area close to Kandahar say that the mujahidin through their heroic attack destroyed a column of Soviet and Karmal forces. In this attack, several Soviet and Karmal forces were killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition fell into the hands of our mujahid brothers.

Our Muslim and revolutionary mujahids in other battles against the Soviet and Karmal forces succeeded in cutting the Kandahar-Herat highway.

BAKHTAR on Shultz Remarks, U.S. 'Interventions'

LD070605 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0435 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 6, BAKHTAR — A political commentator of BIA writes: The U.S. imperialism, by intensifying its interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan not only wants

to hinder a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan but at the same time, tries through its seditious designs to prevent restoration of peace and stability around [words indistinct].

George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, in his speech delivered to the conservative National Committee concerning the political activities of the USA, unequivocally said that the USA is with the Afghan counter-revolutionaries. He added, we are convinced that our endeavours at the present time are as effective as they should be. These remarks clearly demonstrate how the U.S. aggressive imperialism uses the counter-revolution of Afghanistan, who want to sell their homeland to the USA, for its destructive actions to continue the undeclared war against the DRA.

The remarks made by the U.S. secretary of state once again prove the fact that the interventions of the U.S. imperialism into the internal affairs of Afghanistan have been transformed into the official and state policy of the USA. Reagan's request to the U.S. Congress to allocate huge sums for filling the pockets of the ringleaders of the counter-revolution, who have found sanctuaries in Pakistan and are busy in espionage activities for their foreign masters, is another clear proof of the U.S. official policy toward Afghanistan.

Lawrence Eagleberger, the deputy secretary of state, shamelessly said a few months ago that the U.S. Administration has paid 300 million dollars since 1980 to the Afghan counter-revolutionary bandits for carrying out destructive activities against the DRA. This is at a time when he just disclosed a part of such spending, while he did not say anything about the millions of dollars which have been paid by the CIA espionage networks and Pentagon through secret channels.

He also did not recall that the international murders pass on chemical weapons to Afghan counter-revolutionaries to kill their compatriots. Neither did he mention how many defenceless people were killed and how many schools were destroyed by theseterrorists with the help of the U.S. money and weapons and with the 300 million dollars mentioned earlier. But the counter revolutionaries did exactly what the U.S. imperialism dictated. Them keeping the people in ignorance and exacerbating tensions is what the imperialism wants as a pretext for increasing its military presence here and there in the world.

Imperialism needs to abet destruction so that it can undermine the progress and independence of other nations. Imperialism considers important regions of the world as areas of its vital interests, because its ambitions to exploit other people do not know boundaries. And if it is not so, why do representatives of world imperialism such as Rockefeller, Brzezinski, John Tower keep appearing in Peshawar and incite and abet the Afghan bandits to keep the fire of subversion and sabotage alive. But regardless of the ominous U.S. adventurist policies, the masses in Afghanistan have made their choice. The U.S. imperialism and its aggressive plans will not be able by any means to block our onward march.

Briefs

Health Cooperation Protocol — A cooperation protocol in public health area for 1984-1987 was signed today in Kabul between the DRA Ministry of Public Health and the CSSR Public Health Ministry. The agreement was signed on the Afghan side by Public Health Minister Nabi Kamyar and for the Czechoslovakian side by CSSR Health Minister Jaroslav Prokopec. According to the protocol, assistance to train medical cadres and to carry out medical research in both countries will be provided. [Excerpt] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 3 Mar 83 LD]

Solar Station — The first water heating station by solar energy was inaugurated by Raz Mohammad Paktin, the minister of electric energy, at the (?Health) Ministry recently. The station, which will operate within the framework of the new and renewal energy sources of the Ministry of Electrical Power [word indistinct] with the assessment of the United Nations. [Excerpt] [Kabul in English to South Asia 0930 GMT 3 Mar 84 GF]

Ershad Decides To Expand Council of Ministers

BK071307 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, has decided to expand his Council of Ministers. Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Mr Shamsul Haq, Professor Dr M.A. Matin, and Mr M.A. Khan will be the new ministers in the expanded cabinet.

The president has also decided to appoint Mr Shafiqul Gani Swapan as a state minister. All the ministers are from [words indistinct].

An official announcement in Dhaka today said that the swearing in ceremony of the new ministers is expected to be held tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury will act as chairman of the Janadal, while Mr Reazuddin Ahmed Bhola Miah will be the secretary general of the party.

New Ministers Sworn In

BK081309 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Four new ministers and one state minister in the expanded cabinet were sworn in the Zia Hall of Banga Bhavan Thursday afternoon. The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, conducted the oath of office in a simple but impressive ceremony. The deputy chief martial law administrators, ministers, diplomats, and high civil and military officials, and elite of the city were present on the occasion.

The new ministers and the state minister had been allocated portfolios. Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury is the minister for planning; Mr Shamsul Haq, information; Professor M.A. Matin, commerce; Mr M.A. Haq, land administration and land reform; Mr Shafiqul Gani Swapan is the state minister for youth and sports.

With minor adjustments (?to the ministers) all the ministers of the earlier cabinet retained their portfolios. Syed Najmuddin Hashim is now a minister without portfolio.

The total number of ministers now stand at 20.

Ershad's 29 February Address to Nation

BK071455 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Mar 84 p 3

[President Ershad's 29 February address to nation]

[Text] Dear countrymen: Twenty-three months ago from today we took over the administration of the country at a very critical juncture of the nation. The period may not be too long in the context of time but its importance in the national life was immense. During this short span of time we faced a vast number of social, political and economic events.

By the grace of the Almighty Allah and with the active cooperation of the people during this period we have been able to undertake a number of realistic and reformative measures and in some fields a number of epoch-making steps in different spheres of national life to push forward the country towards a path of bright future. The objective and aim of all these is one to pave the way for building an exploitation-free democratic self-reliant happy and prosperous "new Bangladesh" the attainment of this objective was undoutedly a hard and difficult task. [sentence as published] But we were very confident in our principles and ideals, because all our programmes were adopted through hard and untiring efforts and in the light of the past experience. What we wanted to do was to reach the benefit of political freedom to the door of the people through attaining economic freedom.

On the basis of a proper and a realistic programme development on the one side and on the other side hastening the process of transition to democracy was given emphasis in our programme [as published]

In fact all the reformative meassures and epoch making steps taken in different fields of national life were reflected in our programme.

You will be pleased to know that we have already witnessed some results of the realistic steps taken in the economic front. Our export earning during the first six months of the current year was 40 crore dollar, compared to 32 crore dollar earned during the same period of last year. We expect that the export earning during the current financial year will increase by 10 crore dollar to reach a total export earning of 77 crore dollar. This, undoubtedly, is a significant addition in the economic history of Bangladesh. We have also arranged export of maximum number of manpower. Last year we had earned Taka 1,600 crore from this sector, which was Taka 400 crore more than the earning of the previous year.

Similarly our foreign exchange reserve has improved appreciably. Although the foreign exchange reserve was unbelievably low at the time of our taking over the responsibility of the Government, the foreign exchange reserve stood at 18.40 crore dollar on December 31, 1982. During the next months, the reserve stood at 35 crore dollar. The foreign exchange reserve was recorded at 50.2 crore dollar on January 31. It has been recognised as an all time record in Bangladesh. As a result the purchasing power to import different materials, machinery, food and other commodities have greatly increased.

Another important aspect of the Government's economic management is price control and all our efforts to keep the rate of inflation within control; the current year's budget has given utmost importance to increase production and bring back discipline in all sectors of the economy, because this discipline is key to the economic prosperity of the nation and there is no alternative to it.

I am hopeful of achieving the target of food production set for the current year. 112 takh tons of foodgrains out of the target of 163 lakh tons have already been produced. It is expected that about 50 lakh tons more would be available this season from boro

and wheat crops. Arrangements are also being made to procure more foodgrains to maintain a high level of food reserve in Government godowns, As a result it would have positive impact on food-price and hopefully the price would further come down.

In the field of politics we always had a clear point of view. It is so even now. We are fulfilling our promise to the nation word for word. We have said the country would be given a kind of democracy that would be a better and more effective arrangement than any in the past and that it would enable the people to participate in it (democracy) in larger numbers. We have already completed elections to union parishads and porashvas [councils and municipalities]. Now we are going to hold elections to upazilas [subdistricts]. This election will bring about such a change in the rural administration which it had never before. Under this arrangement, people elected from rural areas would themselves be able to draw up uplift programmes and implement those with financial allocations from their own funds for achieving economic self-reliance in their respective areas. This arrangement will bring a positive change in the leadership of the country and the rural leadership would have larger and deeper influence on the country's leadership.

We have brought about the current decentralisation in the light of administrative and development experience. However if the elected representatives want to make any addition or alteration to this system in the future none is suppose to object. And that would be consistent with democratic values. The previous Governments also had spoken of the administrative decentralisation but they could not keep their commitment to the people.

As you know we are the inhabitants of a developing country. Keeping independence and politics consolidated we have to evolve such a democratic system which will enable us to take necessary decisions and steps with regard to economy. It is essential to have a congenial atmosphere conducive to the utilisation of both the domestic and foreign finance and resources to maintain at least the required minimum economic activities for bringing about a change in the fate of the people of our country. With this end in view it is necessary to evolve a peaceful and stable political system for the people and above all for our future generations.

It has been noticed that the different experiments made in the field of politics at different times after the independence for achieving political stability have not only failed but this failure has impeded the trend of the country's economic development at different steps and also brought about a stagnation in some cases.

Power was never transferred in a peaceful manner, rather politics was lowered to such an unfortunate quagmire that it is not easy to come out of it. Therefore we have to build up such a democratic system where the armed forces, uniting with other sections of people of the country, will be able to have a direct role and contribution in building the country and the nation.

You all know that last month, as the head of state and Government I had invited all the political parties in a dialogue aimed at arriving at a national consensus. The agenda of the dialogue included discussions on the process of transition to democracy, presidential and parliamentary elections and demands of different political parties and alliances besides any subject concerning national interest, because we believed that national problems could only be solved through a consensus.

299 leaders of 52 political parties had discussions with me about national problems. Apart from this, my political aides had extensive discussions with many other political parties and leaders on the same issues. Over and above, I myself had visited different remote areas of the country and had opinions from different quarters and leaders.

Against the backdrop of this process, the overall opinion that I have received leads me to say this with all firmness that the people of Bangladesh are in favour of holding the proposed presidential and parliamentary elections on the same day for peaceful transfer of power and waiving of the Martial Law to establish democracy. So my Government has decided that the two elections will be held on the same day on May 27. I have talked to the Election Commission in this regard. I believe that all the political parties and leaders will extend their hands of cooperation towards my Government in this regard. I will welcome any leader or political party or alliance who would like to have discussion on our decision in this regard for transition to democracy.

With a view to transferring power we allowed open political activities in the country last November. But taking advantage of this the way politics was used in destructive, sabotaging and anti production activities and in destruction of national properties, the people had no way but to be afraid of it.

I kept my word by allowing open politics. But those who were responsible for continuing that opportunity failed in discharging their responsibilities. The first and foremost responsibility of any Government in any country is to provide security of life and property to every citizen and to ensure that security. No Government can remain silent and indifferent in such a situation. This does not mean we will never allow open politics. I believe, open politics is a pre-requisite for transition to democracy. Therefore, presidential and parliamentary elections will be held on the basis of free politics. I believe various political parties and alliances will cooperate in this effort by maintaining peaceful atmosphere. With this hope in mind inshallah [God willing] open politics will be allowed from March 26, 1984; the Independence Day.

Side by side with the acceleration of the process of overall development in the greater interest of the country and the nation, we as a military Government have kept unimpeded overall efforts at establishing democracy. I firmly believe that you have full confidence in our sincerity and efforts. We have started on our journey with you unstinted confidence and infinite grace of the merciful Allah. Inshallah, with your active cooperation we shall be able to achieve our cherished goal. I therefore, fervently appeal to you at this historic moment to come forward with sincere good wishes and mental framework of compromise imbued with the great ideal of patriotism. Let the interest of the country be the interest of all of us.

Let the merciful Allah give all of us the strength to build up a strong, happy and prosperous country.

Khoda Hafez [goodbye].

Bangladesh Zindabad [Long Live Bangladesh].

15-Party Alliance Response

BK081218 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 1 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] In a statement isssued last night, the 15-party alliance said the president's speech cannot confuse the people and the agitation will continue until the 5-point demands are met.

In response to the president's address to the nation last evening, the statement says that delivering an address on the eve of the strike was another political maneuver to frustrate the people's movement.

The statement says that his proposal of holding parliamentary and presidential elections on the same day is an attempt to frustrate the 5-point demands, including the demand for holding the parliamentary election first. Not only that, but in not addressing the demands of the political parties to defer the subdistrict elections, a green light was given to hold the elections as scheduled. Nor was anything said on the withdrawal of military rule. The president's speech is also not very clear on granting of open political rights.

Kazi Jafar Ahmed, one of the members of the 7-party alliance,giving his impression of the president's address, said that a very clever political means had been adopted to confuse the people, but we believe they will not be misled by this trick.

Reports on PRC President Li Xiannian's Visit

Speech at Lahore Reception

BK071658 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Chinese President Li Xiannian has said the peoples and Governments of Pakistan and China have always supported and helped each other and their deep friendly relations and mutual cooperation have made considerable progress. Addressing a civic reception at the historic Shalamar Bagh in Lahore this afternoon, he said the constantly changing world situation during the past 3 decades has not affected the growth of friendly relations between the two countries. He said history has proven that Sino-Pakistani friendship is based on solid and durable foundations and has stood every test of time.

The Chinese president said China has always followed an independent foreign policy, and it is ready to consolidate its relations with all countries on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence. He said China considers all countries — big or small — as equal. All nations should live together in the spirit of friendship and brotherhood and work for their collective development. He said China attaches special importance to strengthening its solidarity and cooperation with the Third World. The people of China have friendly feelings for the people of South Asia, and China has always persevered in its efforts to promote good-neighborly relations with these countries.

President Li Xiannian said China supports proposals for declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and for establishing a nuclear free zone in South Asia, as well as the idea of regional cooperation among the South Asian nations. The Chinese Government, he said, has always strived for the resumption of dialogue between the developed and the developing nations and for strengthening economic cooperation among the Third World nations. China will cooperate with all those nations and countries which strive to ensure the supremacy of justice. It will cooperate with countries making efforts to face hegemonism, to safeguard peace and security in Asia and the world as a whole, to end global tension, and to curb the arms race, he added.

The Chinese president expressed appreciation for the diligence, bravery, and valor of the Pakistani people and said he has noted with great happiness the excellent progress made by them in the economic and other fields in the public sector. He said Pakistan has paid sufficient attention to the development of agriculture and has made considerable strides in this field. Pakistan has not only achieved self-sufficiency in food, but is also exporting surplus foodgrain, which is an excellent achievement. He said he hopes that Pakistan will reap abundant harvests in all crops and that its people will lead a happy and prosperous life.

President Li said China and Pakistan are (? linked) with mountains and rivers and their friendship dates back centuries. He said in the 1930's, when the people of China were passing through a great struggle, the poet of the east, Allamah Mohammad Iqbal, helped in inculcating dynamism in them through his poetry. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China in 1951 opened a new chapter in relations between them.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Lahore Mayor Mian Shujaur Rahman said China and Pakistan have set an example of friendship which has withstood all tests of time. Both countries respect each other's independence, security, and sovereignty. He expressed confidence that the relations between these two trusted friends will continue to grow in the future. The Lahore mayor presented the key of the city and a model of the Minaret of Pakistan to the Chinese president. The Chinese president and Madam Le Xiannian also received other gifts. The Chinese president presented souvenirs to the Lahore mayor.

The reception was attended by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Punjab Governor Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan, Minister in Waiting Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, provincial councillors, and prominent citizens. Earlier, the Chinese president and members of his delegation visited the national horse and cattle show.

Punjab Governor's Dinner

BK080314 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Chinese President and Madame Li Xiannian attended a dinner in Lahore last night hosted by [Punjab] Governor Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan. The dinner was also attended by President and Mrs Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Chairman of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association Numtaz Ahmed Khan met for some time with President Li Xiannian.

The Chinese president will visit the museum in Lahore today and later go to see the agricultural and industrial exhibition being held in connection with the national horse and cattle show.

8 March Departure for Amman

BK081034 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Chinese President and Madam Li Xiannian were given a warm send-off when they left Lahore for Amman this afternoon at the end of their 4-day official visit to Pakistan. The president and Begum Mohammad Ziaul Haq bade them farewell at the airport. Others present at the airport included the Punjab governor, Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan; the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; the minister in waiting, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq; the corps commander, Sardar S.S. Lodi; provincial ministers; mayor of Lahore, Mian Shujaur Rahman; councillors; and high-ranking officials. Radio Pakistan's Lahore representative says a very large number of people, gathered on both sides of the profusely decorated routes from the state guest house to the airport, greeted the distinguished guests with slogans of "President Li Xiannian zindabad [long live], President Mohammad Ziaul Haq zindabad," and "Long live Pak-China friendship."

The Chinese president, in a message from his special aircraft before leaving Lahore, expressed his deep gratitude to the president, Government, and people of Pakistan for according a very warm welcome and hospitality to him and his entourage. He said he highly treasured the friendly relations and cooperation

between Pakistan and China. He expressed confidence that Sino-Pakistan friendship would continue to grow and bear richer fruits. He wished prosperity and well-being to the people of Pakistan.

Gong Dafei Comments

BK081049 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Chinese vice foreign minister, Mr Gong Dafei, has described the current visit of the Chinese president, Mr Li Xiannian, to Pakistan as a complete success and hoped that the economic cooperation and trade relations between the two countries will grow further as a result of this visit.

Addressing a news conference in Lahore today, he said the purpose of the visit was to further promote mutual understanding and develop and strengthen the existing cooperation. This purpose has been fully achieved, and both sides are satisfied with the progress in expanding cooperation in all spheres.

He said the presi.. nts of the two countries held two rounds of talks and had a free exchange of views on major international issues and bilateral matters. There was a complete identity of views between them.

In reply to a question, the Chinese vice foreign minister said both China and Pakistan have been working for maintaining peace in South Asia. Their effective cooperation, he added, had helped greatly in preserving peace in Asia, also in promoting world peace.

About the Indo-Pak relations, he said both Pakistan and India were two big powers in South Asia, and it was the sincere desire of China that the Indo-Pak relations should improve and develop. It was also China's desire to develop its relations with India on the basis of five principles of coexistence. China, Pakistan, and India, he added, were developing countries and they needed lasting peaceful international environment for their economic development.

Turning to the Afghanistan issue, the Chinese vice foreign minister referred to the efforts being made for its political settlement and said Pakistan had always tried for such a solution. China desires that the people of Afghanistan are liberated and enjoyed a peaceful life.

Replying to a question about Sino-American relations, he said these had been developing well. President Reagan would be visiting China next month to continue recent contacts between the two countries for the promotion of mutual relations.

Supreme Defense Council Meets 7 March

LD071345 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — The Supreme Defence Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran today discussed the victories achieved in the Val-Fajr VI and Khaybar operations as well as future operation plans.

President Khamene'i who also heads the council chaired the meeting in which decisions were made regarding the continuation of the successful operation at war fronts.

Majlis Speaker on U.S. 'Reproach,' War

LD072254 Tehran IRNA in English 1937 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — The United States' condemnation of the Iraqi use of chemical weapons is "a sweet reproach from a father to his son," Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Wednesday.

He said the Islamic Republic did not view the condemnation sufficient and would not be "fooled" by such remarks from the United States.

The speaker who was speaking after today's meeting of the Supreme Defence Council [SDC], said the Iran Insurance Company should offer insurance rates to ships sailing to the Khark Island on the basis of the previous international rates in order to difuse attempts by big insurance companies to put pressure on Iran and exploit the situation.

He said the Islamic Republic had not accepted to meet with any peace delegation and if it did, the conditions for putting an end to the 42-month-old Iraqi war set forth by Iran had not changed.

Imam Khomeyni's representative in the SDC said the Iraqi forces attempted to regain the Majnun Islands on Tuesday and today but failed after losing much of their troops.

On reports of Soviet help in the Iraqi chemical warfare against the Islamic Republic, the speaker said this was not improbable and Iran was undertaking further studies in this regard.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the international press had a duty to strongly condemn the Iraqi use of chemical bombs in its war against the Islamic Republic in order to discourage their use by other countries or even terrorist organisations in the future.

He said the U.S. move in condemnation of Iraq "is a mere trick to fool the people, and to pretend that they are not indifferent towards the issue."

"When Iraq uses these (chemical weapons) and the world centres close their eyes to it, then what could be done tomorrow if a terrorist throws a poisonous capsule in a large crowd in any country....

"We are by no means satisfied (with the American announcement) and Saddam, the Ba'th party and the commander of the Iraqi forces should be put on trial just for this crime.

"If this crime started by Iraq becomes common do you know what catastrophe would happen in this world," he asked.

He added that despite the American condemnation, the agent states of the United States in the region were giving a lot of support to Iraq in the war.

Asked about the increase in the insurance rates for oil tankers sailing to Khark Island, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said this was a conspiracy against Iran in order to decrease traffic in the Persian Gulf and thus inflict economic damage on Iran and to steal more money from the ships.

He said this conspiracy should be difused through immediate action by the Iran Insurance Company.

"We think that through announcing insurance rates for ships by the Iran Insurance Company on the basis of previous (international) rates, the strong and wealthy Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should confront this conspiracy.

"This was done once before and forced them (big insurance firms) to retreat. With our money in world banks and the credibility of the Iran Insurance Company, certainly our insurance would be more reliable than Lloyd's Insurance," he said.

Asked about some reports that Soviet military experts were helping the Iraqi regime in its chemical warfare, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the reports needed more detail but said this was not unthinkable.

"Witnessing the use of (Soviet-built) Scud-B missiles against our civilian areas and people, this (Soviet act) is not improbable from our point of view. But we are looking further into the matter," he said.

The Majlis speaker said the Islamic Republic had not [words indistinct] institutions ought to be [word indistinct] in the past.

"Generally when Iraq comes under a serious threat, such (peace) talks start again and in any case if they do come to Iran, our position is the same as our previous one."

He said those conditions were the retreat of the aggressor Iraqi forces from small areas of Iranian territories still under their occupation, payment of war reparations and the punishment of Saddam Husayn "which in our view is equal with his overthrow."

"If there are those who are ready for talks on this level, we have no objection. But this should not be called 'mediation,'" he added.

He said the Islamic forces would not concentrate their efforts only in the Basra area of Iraq, since Iraq was vulnerable along the 1,000- km battlefront.

"We will continue these operations in various ways," he said adding "and I think now that all these (Iranian) forces have been mobilised, we should try and push the war straight through."

He said a large number of forces were present in the war zones and there were plenty of others ready at mobilization centres to be sent to the fronts when needed.

He also said the Iraqi attacks against the positions of the Islamic forces south of the Majnun Islands had been crushed yesterday and today and the enemy troops had been routed in both attacks.

"It was clear for us that the Iraqis would use all their strength to regain the islands, and we expected it...fortunately whatever forces they had sent were routed and considerable losses had been inflicted on them," he said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied Iraqi claims that its forces had surrounded the islands. He said the Hawr al-Huwayzah marsh was totally in Iranian hands and the Islamic forces had access to the islands from three sides.

He added, "In all other points in the warfronts, they (the Iraqi forces) are in well-equipped positions, and we have to attack them. But at this point (south of the Majnun Islands), they have to come into the arena without any cover while we defend. With the difference that exists in the spirit of our forces and the enemy's, this area has been turned into a very suitable arena for the destruction of the Iraqi forces...I think our forces understand the value of these islands and will show the necessary resistance to guard them."

Spokesman on U.S. Denouncement of Iraqi Chemical Use

LD071907 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — The spokesman of the war information headquarters said here today that Washington's denouncement of the Baghdad regime for waging a chemical warfare against Iran had raised doubts whether Washington has not itself provided chemical weapons to the Baghdad regime. He said Washington's denunciation of the Iraqi regime for its employment of chemical weapons against the Muslim combatants of Iran indicated also fresh efforts by the United States for imposing American-inspired peace between Iran and Iraq.

He said because Iraq's Defence Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah Talfah had yesterday accused Washington of hypocrisy in its position towards the Iran-Iraq conflict any observer might conclude that Washington is likely to have been a supplier of chemical weapons to Baghdad. He said Washington had apparently denounced the Iraqi regime in well-calculated strategem for protecting its secret sale of chemical weapons to Baghdad from international censorship. He said this has been the underlying reason why Baghdad has accused Washington of political hypocrisy and compromise of its avowed principles.

The war information official said that by its denunciation of Baghdad, Washington has portrayed Baghdad as an anti-American government also with an eye to winning some international esteem for itself while Baghdad has fallen into a turmoil of political isolation as a result of its very own un-Islamic behavior. He said as reflected in the U.S. media such as *THE NEW YORK TIMES* the U.S. officials were aware of Iraq's intention for employing chemical weapons against the Iranians in battlefronts and that quoting *THE WASHINGTON POST* the Voice of America had said (in its Persian language broadcast) Tuesday that hard pressed under the Khaybar offensive by Iranian combatants Saddam Husayn was left with the only alternative of employing toxic compounds against Iranian troops in order to hold on to his ground. He said Washington intends to exploit the development in Iraq's war with Iran as justification for imposing an ignominous peace treaty upon Iran. He said in order to condition world public opinion in favour of a peace treaty between the two countries Washington has been recently exploiting international news media for publishing extremely exaggerated reports on Iranian casualties in the battlefronts so that thereby it may pave the way for masterminding a series of strategem aimed at keeping Saddam Husayn in power by putting on a mask and a facade of a concern for the well-being of the human race.

U.S. 'Admission' on Iraqi Chemical Use Cited

GF071644 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The U.S. State Department spokesman stressed that the ruling regime in Iraq used chemical weapons last week in the war with the forces of the Iranian Islamic Republic. The spokesman did not make even the smallest reference as to who had delivered these weapons to the ruling regime in Iraq. The U.S. State Department's admission of the use of chemical weapons by the ruling regime in Iraq came in the wake of the statements made by Swedish and Austrian physicians who treated casualties of the chemical weapons, and after the great reaction caused by the news of the Saddam regime's use of these weapons. One of the doctors treating the chemical weapons casualties declared that the admission of the U.S. officials and the breaking of the imperialists news media's prolonged silence with which they tried to cover up Saddam's crimes resulted from sending casualties abroad and from the visits by ambassadors and charge d'affaires of foreign embassies in Tehran to the casualties.

IRNA Sums Up Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

LD072309 Tehran IRNA In English 2112 GMT 7 Mar 84

["Iraq's Use of Chemical Weapons and World's Conscience" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran March 7 IRNA — The following is a summary report on the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran, filed by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY.

Approximately 1,100 Iranians have reportedly fallen victims to Iraqi use of chemical bombs and nerve gases, an act in open violation of international and humanitarian principles. This, of course, is not the first war crime perpetrated by the Baghdad regime.

In the course of the 42 months of the Iraqi imposed war, the Islamic Republic's residential areas have suffered more than 130 missile attacks, 320 air raids, and over 1,500 artillery barrages. In these attacks over 5,000 civilians were martyred and more than 23,000 others were wounded.

According to official reports published here, ever since the war started in Sept. 1980, the Iraqi regime has used various types of chemical weapons by means of artillery shells, mortars and aerial bombs, against Iran's forces and civilian populations. Only before the recent operations (Val Fajr-V, Val Fajr-VI and Khaybar) started in February, Iraq has used lethal chemical bombs in different western and southwestern regions of Iran, 48 times.

During the first few days of the Khaybar operations some 400 Iranians had been wounded or martyred in Iraq's chemical bombing of the Khaybar operational region. The figure, however, rose gradually to 700 and then 1,100, as the Baghdad regime increased its application of the internationally-banned chemicals.

The injured combatants of Iran were transferred to various hospitals in Khuzestan and later to Tehran and several other cities for initial treatment. Some of the wounded Iranians who had been contaminated with toxic agents released by the Iraqi bombs on Majnun islands suffered mostly from facial burns and eye injuries, also having intense nausea, inflamed, tear-flowing eyes, giddiness, loss of equilibrium and intense coughing. The type of the chemicals used were nerve gase, nitrogen mustard, vesicant (blistering) and irritant.

According to the injured the bombs upon the explosion, emitted a yellow gas which quickly spread over the area, and the troops within a radius of one kilometer, got poisoned and suffered skin-burns. The fragments of a bomb later collected from the point of explosion were of a green colour, according to the wounded combatants.

Iranian doctors threating the patients have said that the Iraqis have most likely used other types of toxic chemicals such as chloride in their bombs. They have also said even arsenic and phosphogene compounds are suspected to have been used in the chemical bombs. The doctors said some of the patients (about 30 percent) had received minor injuries, most of whom were released from hospitals within a short period of time and returned to the battlefronts.

On the damages caused by the chemical weapons, one of the physicians in Tehran's Labafi Nejad hospital said although very deep skin lesions are inflicted by the chemical bombs, yet these are less terrible compared to internal damages. [sentence as received] He said in some cases the victim's body could not produce white blood cells, and thus becomes defenceless against diseases.

Some of them who had been critically wounded, were transferred to Tehran hospitals and a group of 16 were sent to Sweden and Austria for further treatment. One of the injured, Hussein Ibrahimi, 17, lost his life in a Stockholm hospital. Two of the wounded are also reportedly in a critical condition. Latest reports reaching here today said that another of the wounded Iranians has also passed away in Austria.

Despite the repeated appeals of Iran to various international organisations, so far, silence has been the only response given by these organisations to Baghdad's repeated violation of human rights in its war against Iran.

During the recent disarmament conference in Geneva, the Iranian delegates (headed by Foreign Minister Velayati) distributed pictorial leaflets containing a summary report on Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons, among the foreign dignitaries attending the conference. Iran has also launched other universal efforts in a bid to convince the international organisations that this Iraqi crime, like the regime's other violations of human rights, should be condemned.

To this end, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of the Islamic Republic on Sunday cabled a message to the United Nations, urging the dispatch of a special delegation here to study the Iraqi use of chemical weapons.

Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N., Seyed Hadi Rajaie-Khorassani has also called on U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to open an investigation into the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against Iran.

According to Resolution Number 37/98 passed at the U.N. in 1982 the United Nations organisation, upon learning about application of chemical bombs in a country is duty bound to dispatch a team of experts to the said country immediately and inform all the U.N. members of the results of its investigations. This responsibility is independent from the organisation's duty vis-a-vis the very issue of the war and therefore under no pretext could the U.N. refrain from investigating the case.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry sent a letter to the representative committee of the International Red Cross in Tehran, inviting the IRC representative to visit victims of the Iraqi chemical bombardment.

On Monday, March 5th, foreign ambassadors, charge d'affaires and military attaches were invited to the Iranian Foreign Ministry where they listened to reports on Iraqi regime's deployment of chemical weapons.

Also, the same day some 65 foreign diplomats in Tehran, visited convalescing victims of the chemical weapons, at Labafi Nejad Hospital.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, based on some of the available evidences, has accused the British Government of supplying chemical weapons to the Iraqi regime. Iranian officials have deplored the act and have asked Britain to stop the shipment of these weapons.

Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a meeting with the Swedish ambassador to Tehran Monday asked the Swedish Government to discourage Britain from sending more chemical weapons to Iraq. He said this British measure was in contradic

tion with its claims that it wanted to see an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Meanwhile, a British parliamentarian Tuesday conceded that the British Government was involved in chemical warfare in the Persian Gulf because, he said British firms have sold protective suits and gas masks to Iraq and several other Arab countries.

We trust that in the world today no human conscience could overlook such a naked crime, and no heart could stay unmoved in the face of so much pain and suffering ruthlessly inflicted on human beings. We also hope that the international fora realising their grave responsibility towards humanity at large and world peace, would be instrumental in relaying the voice of these victims to the world, and denouncing these criminal acts.

President Khamene'i Replies to Gandhi Letter

LD071455 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and Supreme Defense Council chairman, today replied to a letter expressing regret at the bombing of residential areas in our country by the Ba'thist criminals of Iraq, sent by Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and Nonaligned Movement leader. The text of the letter is:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To Her Excellency Indira Gandhi, leader of the Nonaligned Movement: I have received your letter dated 19 February, 1984, in which you express regret at residential districts being made targets in the imposed war with Iraq. Your sensitivity regarding this matter, as head of a friendly government and leader of the Nonaligned Movement, is pleasing, but I must in the friendliest manner express my own astonishment as to why such sensitivity to this matter has emerged after a period of over 3 years.

I now wish to seek your views on a new, important problem, and I express the hope that in this regard you will also display snesitivity in a responsible manner. This is the use of chemical and bacterial bombs by the Iraqi regime.

In engagements over the past week, over 1,000 individuals on the fronts have suffered severe physical injury as a result of these bombs, and according to information which has recently reached me, some of them, who were transferred to local hospitals — and a group was also sent to Europe for treatment — have unfortunately died.

These acts on the part of Iraq constitute a violation and clear breach of internationally-accepted agreements, and I hope that in your position as leader of the Nonaligned Movement, you will fully carry out your responsibilities in regard to these occurrences.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, 7 March 1984

Joint Operations Center Communique No 18

LD071724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Communique No 18 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following its abortive counteroffensive launched yesterday, which was repulsed thanks to the miraculous bravery and resistance of the blasphemy fighters of the army of monotheism, the enemy, gathering his defeated forces south of the Majnun Islands, today launched another counteroffensive. The devotees of the army of Islam, in the course of a heavy battle with enemy forces, severely crushed the counteroffensive launched by eight brigades, consisting of the 30th and 16th Armored Brigades; the 105th, 704th, 93d, 702d, and 3d Infantry Brigades; and the Independent Iraqi Border Guards Battalion.

In the course of these engagements, which resulted in the destruction of more Zionist enemy units, the brave and epic-making combatants of Islam killed or wounded more than 700 servicemen of the forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime and set fire to and destroyed a large number of their vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

With the enemy being pinned down, the forces of Islam are fully in control of the Majnun Islands and are ready to crush any desperate move by the enemy.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,658

LD071729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,658 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued all day yesterday along most of the country's western and southern fronts between the victorious combatants of Islam and the mercenary Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors. These exchanges were more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran, and Changuleh regions. On each front and in each region, the valiants of Islam with their timely and precise artillery fire on the enemy's [word indistinct] units region, supply routes and artillery posts, halted Iraqi troop movements and their fire and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries. While destroying parts of the enemy's defensive positions and its supply routes, they crushed the enemy's operational activities and killed or wounded a considerable number of enemy personnel and troops [as heard]. In the Hajj 'Umran region alone, more than 25 of the Saddamist infidels were killed.

In the Khorramshahr and Abadan operational region, our forces continued to defend the regions allocated to them. While answer-

ing enemy heavy fire and halting the Saddamist troops' fire, they also killed or injured more than 30 enemy troops. During these operations, 3 enemy mortar launchers and machine guns, 17 collective and individual bunkers, a fuel tank, and 2 loaders were set on fire and destroyed.

Yesterday the city of Abadan came under enemy artillery and heavy fire. Compared to previous days, Abadan sustained greater damage: 20 houses and shops and 1 mosque were damaged.

Iraqi Volunteers Depart for Fronts

LD071435 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 7 IRNA — Another group of Iraqi combatants including students of Martyr Sadr education complex set out for battle fronts of truth against falsehood to fight alongside their Iranian combatants this week, and were seen off by officials of Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) and Iraqi families residing in Tehran.

Meanwhile Iraqi deportee youths lodged in Jahrom, Ezna, Malavi, and Khorram Darreh camps referred to SAIRI mobilisation offices, and demanded that they be dispatched to battle fronts to combat against Ba'thist invaders.

Montazeri, Prosecutor General Discuss Pardons

LD041238 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Qom, March 4, IRNA — Ayatollah Montazeri, in his meeting with the prosecutor general of the country Yusuf Sane'i, said that the Supreme Judicial Council should scrupulously follow up the issue of prisoners deserving pardon. Ayatollah Montazeri said that a list of prisoners whose freedom would not harm the revolution and the country should be prepared and presented to the imam for approval.

During the meeting also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Bojnurdi,a member of Supreme Judicial Council, Ayatollah Montazeri said that Imam Khomeyni's instructions concerning this issue should be painstakingly followed and implemented.

He added that ignorance in this case was not in the interest of Islam, nor the revolution, adding that from religious point of view, people who deserved pardon should not stay in prison. He also praised the high revolutionary courts for the tasks they have undertaken so far and wished them success in their endeavors in the future. Ayatollah Montazeri also urged the strengthening of the courts, and called upon judges to remain impartial in their verdicts.

Arab Front for Liberation of Al-Ahvaz Appeal

GF021110 (Clandestine) Voice of Al-Ahvaz Revolution in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Appeal from Arab Front for Liberation of Al-Ahvaz]

[Text] O fighters in Al-Ahvaz, O you who are standing fast behind the lines of the enemy Persian occupiers, O valiant men who smashed the arrogance of the Khomeyniites and defeated the racist Persians: You have lived up to our expectations in your chivalry, heroism, and self-sacrifice [words indistinct]. You are now cutting off the roads of escape for the remnants of the defeated army of the Persian enemy. You are blowing up the enemy's strategic bridges and destroying all the weapons and equipment left to him and terrifying the defeated remnants of those escaping by sniping at them and by ambushing them at any place and at any time.

May God bless your daring steps and may God help you to achieve your aim of liberating Al-Ahvaz. Struggle until victory.

[Signed] Arab Front for the Liberation of Al-Ahvaz.